

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 023184 SENT ACTION GENEVA
JANUARY 31ST:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

REF: A) GENEVA 484 B) GENEVA 494

1. US REGRETS EC/EFTA COUNTRIES ARE UNABLE TO COORDINATE
POSITION FOR FEBRUARY 18 CONSULTATIONS. WE STILL BELIEVE
FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WILL PROVIDE USEFUL FORUM FOR DISCUSSING
ASPECTS OF THE RULES OF ORIGIN PROBLEM AS DELINEATED IN OUR
PAPERS. THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENTS WILL CERTAINLY HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PAPERS AND MAY WANT TO MAKE COMMENTS
WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT THEIR
COORDINATED POSITION. THEIR FORMAL RESPONSE COULD BE GIVEN
LATER. (FYI. OUR MAIN PURPOSE AT THIS MEETING IS TO
EMPHASIZE NEED FOR JUSTIFICATION OF EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN
SYSTEMS IN TERMS OF TRADE DEFLECTION AND TO EXERT PRESSURE
ON PARTIES TO PROVIDE THE SAME. THE MEETING WOULD ALSO GIVE
ASSISTANCE TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT ORIGIN RULE
REFORM. COORDINATED EC/EFTA POSITION AT THIS MEETING IS
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NOT ESSENTIAL AND OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO GO AHEAD WITH

MEETING AS SCHEDULED. END FYI)

2. HOWEVER, IF BOTH THE EC AND EFTA COUNTRIES MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR A TWO TO THREE WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONSULTATION DATE, THE US WOULD AGREE. US UNDERSTANDING, IN AGREEING TO THIS, IS THAT EC/EFTA COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITON FOR A MARCH MEETING.

3. US DELEGATION WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT DECISION ON ABOVE SO THAT TRAVEL PLANS CAN BE MADE. ASSUMING FEBRUARY 18 DATE IS MAINTAINED, DELEGATION PREFERS AM SCHEDULING OF CONSULTATIONS AND FEBRUARY 17 PM SCHEDULING OF "FRIENDLIES" MEETING. KISSINGER

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